

1,941
527843

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
~~AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE~~ mistake; should be BAE
WASHINGTON, D. C. (telephone)

March 12, 1943

LARGER TURKEY CROP EXPECTED THIS YEAR

Turkey growers plan to raise about 37 million turkeys this year, according to February 1 returns from over 5,000 farmers throughout the United States. This would be the largest crop of turkeys ever produced in this country--12 percent larger than the 1942 crop. Turkey producers in the West North Central States, who produced 33 percent of the turkeys raised in 1942, plan an increase of 11 percent this year. In the Western States, which produced 27 percent of the 1942 crop, the expected increase is 17 percent; East North Central, 14 percent; South Atlantic, 10 percent; and in the South Central States, 4 percent. The largest percentage increase is 19 percent in the North Atlantic States, where only 7 percent of the 1942 crop was produced. A sharp increase in expected poults is shown this year in flocks with less than 100 turkeys last year. For these flocks there is reported only a moderate increase in poults to be home hatched but a large increase in intended purchases of hatchery poults, especially in the North Atlantic, North Central and Western States.

Some difference between February indications and actual performance is to be expected, the difference depending on the supply and price of hatching eggs, poult prices, the availability and cost of high protein feeds and the willingness of growers to accept late hatched poults. In former years the February 1 intention has slightly exceeded actual performance, in 1938 by 3 percent, in 1939 and 1940 by 2 percent, in 1941 by less than 1 percent, and in 1942 by 8 percent. A smaller home hatch last year than was expected, with low egg fertility, a poor demand for late hatched poults and a large death loss in brooding prevented any increase in the 1942 turkey crop over 1941, although hatchery production of poults was up 8 percent.

Although there are fewer breeder hens by 1 percent than last year, poult hatchings began earlier and in greater volume this year. Hatcheries report exceptionally large early orders for poults and many hatcheries have contracted their entire capacity for the season. Hatching eggs are in strong demand at prices higher than usual. In order to meet February 1 expectations growers will have to greatly increase the number of home hatched poults and buy more late hatched poults than last year.

SLIGHT DECREASE IN BREEDER HENS THIS YEAR

The number of turkey breeding hens on hand January 1 of this year was about 1 percent less than a year ago. The South Atlantic, South Central and West North Central States show decreases of 4, 5 and 9 percent respectively, while other areas show increases of 3 to 13 percent. The largest increase was 13 percent in the Western States, where producers in Oregon, Washington and California specialize in the production of turkey eggs for hatching. These Pacific Coast States have 21 percent of the Nation's breeding flock.

About 30 percent of the Nation's breeder hens are located in the West North Central States and 25 percent in the Western States.. Texas with 609,000 has the largest number of breeder hens, followed by California with 492,000. However, because of a larger egg production per hen -- 33.4 eggs, California produced about 16 million eggs in 1942, compared with 13 million in Texas.

Turkey Hens On Hand And Intentions to Raise Turkeys In 1943

State and Division	Turkey hens on hand Jan 1 :			Turkeys raised		
	1942	1943		1942	Intended in 1943	
		Number	% 1942		Number	% 1942
	Thousands		Percent	Thousands		Percent
Maine	5	5	100	48	49	102
N. H.	6	7	120	69	90	130
Vt.	11	12	110	170	196	115
Mass.	25	30	120	240	288	120
R. I.	3	3	110	25	32	128
Conn.	13	15	118	114	148	130
New York	40	37	92	420	525	125
New Jersey	13	15	115	138	166	120
Pa.	66	64	97	1020	1173	115
N. ATL.	182	188	103.3	2244	2667	118.
Ohio	67	60	90	896	941	105
Ind.	45	52	115	394	512	130
Ill.	53	72	125	662	722	109
Mich.	55	55	100	472	519	110
Wis.	40	48	120	504	630	125
E. N. CENT.	265	287	108.3	2928	3324	113.
Minn.	236	257	90	3207	3528	110
Iowa	138	128	93	1729	1902	110
Mo.	221	221	100	1359	1631	120
N. Dak.	202	172	85	1212	1333	110
S. Dak.	180	144	80	1000	1070	107
Nebr.	142	128	90	1260	1386	110
Kans.	147	150	102	1064	1170	110
W. N. CENT.	1316	1200	91.2	10831	12020	111.
Delaware	13	11	85	113	113	100
Maryland	52	47	90	405	450	111
Virginia	105	103	98	902	992	110
W. Va.	30	26	86	270	297	110
N. C.	45	38	85	268	300	112
S. C.	38	42	111	155	170	110
Ga.	28	31	110	140	168	120
Fla.	23	24	104	115	118	103
S. ATL.	334	322	96.4	2368	2608	110.
Kentucky	47	49	105	310	341	110
Tenn.	33	33	100	196	206	105
Alabama	39	41	105	170	196	115
Mississippi	44	44	100	143	160	112
Ark.	26	26	100	140	140	100
La.	22	19	88	61	67	110
Okla.	225	180	80	1122	1178	105
Texas	621	609	98	3724	3798	102
S. CENT.	1057	1001	94.7	5366	6086	103.
Mont.	29	26	90	276	290	105
Idaho	19	22	115	273	328	120
Wyo.	20	16	80	176	185	105
Colo.	65	55	85	888	977	110
New Mexico	13	16	123	55	69	125
Arizona	13	12	92	74	81	110
Utah	26	34	130	1166	1632	140
Nev.	55	6	120	36	54	150
Washington	84	113	135	1096	1425	130
Oregon	196	225	115	1726	1899	110
California	428	492	115	3139	3453	110
WEST.	898	1017	113.3	8905	10393	116.
U. S.	4052	4015	99.1	33142	37098	111.

The average weight per bird sold alive in 1942 was 16.3 pounds -- 0.4 pounds heavier than in 1941 and 1.2 pounds heavier than in 1940. The average weight has increased gradually since 1930. The largest increase has taken place in the Western States where the broad-breasted turkey is found in greatest numbers and birds are raised to heavier weights for the hotel and restaurant trade.

The average turkey hen sold in the United States in 1942 weighed 13.0 pounds live and 11.6 pounds dressed and the average tom weighed 19.6 pounds live and 17.6 pounds dressed. Hens sold in the Western States in 1942 average 7 percent heavier than in any other area in the United States and toms averaged 13 percent heavier.

AVERAGE WEIGHT PER TURKEY WHEN SOLD IN 1942

Geographic Division	Hens		Toms		All	
	Alive	Dressed	Alive	Dressed	Alive	Dressed
	Pounds					
North Atlantic	13.0	11.4	19.6	17.4	16.3	14.4
East North Central	12.5	11.0	18.7	16.6	15.6	13.8
West North Central	12.8	11.4	19.2	17.0	14.2	12.8
South Atlantic	12.3	10.7	18.1	16.3	15.2	13.5
South Central	12.1	11.0	17.5	15.8	14.8	13.4
Western	13.9	12.4	22.1	20.2	18.0	16.3
United States	13.0	11.6	19.6	17.6	16.3	14.6

LARGEST DEATH LOSS OF TURKEYS IN 1942

The loss of turkey poults in 1942 was the largest in 6 years. It was 28.8 percent of the number bought and home hatched compared with 27.8 percent in 1941 and 26.6 percent, the 5-year (1937-41) average. Wet weather during May and June, reaching flood proportions in some areas, was very unfavorable for poults and caused heavy losses. In all parts of the country except the South Central and Western the loss of poults was larger than in 1941. The heaviest loss is usually in the South Central States where there is a larger proportion of small flocks than elsewhere in the United States.

Breeding stock losses during 1942 averaged 11.1 percent compared with 10.1 percent in 1941 and 10.5 percent, the 5-year average. They were the heaviest in the last 5 years. Breeder losses were larger in 1942 than in 1941 in all parts of the country except the West North Central and Western States where they were equal to or lighter than in 1941.

DEATH LOSS OF TURKEYS

Geographic Division	Young turkeys lost as a percent of total numbers bought and home hatched					Breeding stock lost as percent of numbers on hand January 1				
	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942
	Percent					Percent				
North Atlantic	16	17	19	17	19	11	10	9	7	8
East North Central	21	20	19	21	23	12	10	10	10	11
West North Central	23	23	29	24	28	12	10	10	10	10
South Atlantic	31	35	28	27	31	13	12	11	10	10
South Central	38	38	31	45	43	14	17	13	13	16
Western	20	19	20	22	21	6	5	5	8	7
United States	26.3	26.0	25.9	27.8	28.8	10.9	10.4	9.4	10.1	11.1

After five days return to
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
WASHINGTON, D. C.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Penalty for private use to avoid
payment of postage, \$300

BUREAU OF AGR'L ECONOMICS
LIBRARY
U S DEPT OF AGRICULTURE
ML-PE WASHINGTON D C